

The swimming behaviour of terek sandpiper has been recorded (BIRDS OF THE WESTERN PALEARCTIC, Cramp and Simmons, K.E.L. 1983). But diving into water is an unusual behaviour not known to be recorded, which may be either an adaptation to es-

cape from predators or may be an impulsive action resulting from panic.

S. BALACHANDRAN

V. NATARAJAN

May 8, 1991

12. UNUSUAL FORAGING SITE OF GOLDENBACKED WOODPECKER *DINOPIUM BENGHALENSE* (LINN.)

11 April 1991, at 0830 hrs while walking along the road near one of my study sites at Pt. Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, I saw a goldenbacked woodpecker *Dinopium benghalense* flying from the forest towards the swamp. I was puzzled to see a woodpecker flying towards the swamp, which was not its habitat, but it immediately perched on one of the concrete electric poles along the road. After landing on the lower part of the pole, it started creeping up in short spurts, inspecting and picking up some prey from the crevices. It picked prey from three crevices on the pole and once from the gap between

the iron clamps at the top of the pole. Afterwards it flew to another pole, repeated similar foraging tactics at two crevices and flew towards the forest. Inspection of some crevices on these poles revealed the presence of beetles, ants, cockroaches and spiders.

According to Ali and Ripley (1983, HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN), the woodpeckers pick up insects from tree trunks, boughs and the ground. This observation reports an unusual foraging site of the goldenbacked woodpecker.

June 10, 1991

S. ALAGAR RAJAN

13. A SILENT ASSOCIATION

On 12 January 1991 near Kakachi I happened to come across a small troop of liontailed Macaques *Macaca silenus* in the dense evergreen forest. The monkeys were seen probing the flowers of *Cullenia exarillata* and brought down a rain of flowers, twigs, bark and some insects. A little below the monkeys, I noticed a racket-tailed drongo *Dicrurus remifer* silently foraging under the 'rain'. The monkeys moved to another tree and were soon followed by the drongo. Such an association I have seen almost at all

seasons at Kakachi.

The HANDBOOK OF BIRDS (Ali and Ripley, S.D. 1983) mentions the drongo associating closely with treepies and woodpeckers but monkeys are not mentioned. Elsewhere, however, birds have been seen associating with monkeys (Bonski and Scott, *Biotropica* 20(2): 136-143, 1988).

March 13, 1991

T. GANESH

14. TREE PIE *DENDROCITTA VAGABUNDA* (LATHAM) FEEDING ON ARIL OF SEEDS OF *PITHECELLOBIUM DULCE*

On 26 April 1991, at Bundha Forest Nursery of Jamwa Ramgarh Range (Division Jaipur-West), I noticed a party of 13 individuals of the tree pie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* (Latham) feeding on arils of seeds of *Pithecellobium dulce* along with redvented bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*, roseringed parakeet *Psittacula krameri* and other frugivorous birds. Some individual of treepie were picking up fallen green pods of *Pithecellobium dulce* from the ground while others were plucking them off the trees. Holding the pods in

their claws, they were tearing the pods with their bills and devouring the arils, an outgrowth present on seeds.

The forest of the locality has a dry-deciduous type of vegetation and *Pithecellobium dulce* is an exotic component of these forests introduced by the Forest Department, a few local nurseries and plantations.

July 21, 1991

SATISH KUMAR SHARMA